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AF ) 3724 \$

SIGNATURE OF PERSON MAILING PAPER

DATE OF SIGNATURE

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Clark E Douton
Examiner: Clark F. Dexter
Group Art Unit: 3724
) }
(Our Docket No. 6579-0132)

Middletown, Connecticut, January 21, 2005

Mail Stop Amendment Commissioner for Patents P.O. BOX 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

## INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

SIR:

Applicant(s) submits herewith Form PTO/SB/08A identifying patents, publications or other information of which they are aware, which they believe may be material to the examination of this application and in respect of which there may be a duty to disclose.

The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed as a representation that a search has been made (37 CFR 1.97(g)), an admission that the information cited is, or is considered to be, material to patentability, or that no other material information exists.

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admission against interest in any manner. Notice of January 9, 1992, 1135 O.G. 13-25, at 25. Under 37 CFR 1.97 (b) This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the filing date of the application, or the date of entry into the national stage of an international application, or before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits, whichever event occurs last. Under 37 CFR 1.97 (c) This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed after three months of the filing date of this national application, or the date of entry into the national stage as set forth in §1.491 in an international application, or after the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, whichever event occurred last, but before the mailing date of either a final action under §1.113 or a notice of allowance under §1.311, whichever occurs first. A certification as specified in 37 CFR 1.97(e) is set forth below.  $\square$ Fee as set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(p) (\$180.00). Under 37 CFR 1.97(d) This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed after a final action under §1.113 or a notice of allowance under §1.311, whichever occurs first, but before, or simultaneously with, the payment of the issue fee. Applicant hereby petitions for the consideration of this Information Disclosure Statement, 37 CFR 1.97(d)(ii). certification as specified in 37 CFR 1.97(e) is set forth below. Fee as set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(p) (\$180.00) **CERTIFICATION (37 CFR 1.97(e))** Each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Statement. A copy of the relevant search report is enclosed herewith. No item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application or, to the knowledge of the person signing this certification after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Statement.

The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed as an

Under 37 CFR 1.98(a)(2)(i)

Copies of the U.S. patents identified on the attached PTO/SB/08A form are not being submitted at this time. Should the Examiner require said U.S. patent copies, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner contact Applicants' Representative at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

Wayne R. Gróhs

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PTO/SB/08A (08-03) Approved for use through 07/31/2006. OMB 0651-0031

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Substitute for form 1449/PTO

REAL PROPERTY.

Sheet

## INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

of |

Complete if Known				
Application Number	09/576,269			
Filing Date	May 22, 2000			
First Named Inventor	Michael J. Cummings			
Art Unit	3724			
Examiner Name	Clark F. Dexter			
Attorney Docket Number	6579-0132			

Examiner Initials*	Cite No.1	Document Number  Number-Kind Code <sup>2 (d known)</sup>	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		<sup>US-</sup> 6,594,904	07-22-2003	Tseng	
,		<sup>US-</sup> 6,584,690	07-01-2003	Orloff et al.	
		<sup>US-</sup> 6,430,818	08-13-2002	Wonderley	
		<sup>US-</sup> 6,185,823	02-13-2001	Brown et al.	
		<sup>US-</sup> 6,161,287	12-19-2000	Swanson et al.	
		<sup>US-</sup> 6,149,981	11-21-2000	Chadwick et al.	
-		<sup>US-</sup> 5,956,849	09-28-1999	Chadwick et al.	
		<sup>US-</sup> 5,903,979	05-18-1999	Oldroyd	
		<sup>US-</sup> 5,517,760	05-21-1996	Prochaska	
		<sup>US-</sup> 5,347,714	09-20-1994	Prochaska	
		<sup>US-</sup> 5,079,839	01-14-1992	Conrad, Jr., et al.	
		<sup>US-</sup> 5,063,667	11-12-1991	Jacobson	
		<sup>US-</sup> 5,056,222	10-15-1991	Miller et al.	
		<sup>US-</sup> 4,850,106	07-25-1989	Braun et al.	
		US- 4,778,640	10-18-1988	Braun et al.	
		US- 4,709,476	12-01-1987	Shurtleff et al.	
		<sup>US-</sup> 4,587,729	05-13-1986	Jacobson	
		US-			
**		US-			

	FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages	-6
		Country Code <sup>3</sup> "Number <sup>4</sup> "Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known)	MM-DD-YYYY		Or Relevant Figures Appear	٢
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Examiner	Date		
Signature	Considered		
- 3		1	

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at <a href="https://www.uspto.gov">www.uspto.gov</a> or MPEP 901.04. Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 (1-800-786-9199) and select option 2.